## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A dielectric ceramic comprising:

a primary component ~~composed of~~ comprising a barium titanate base composite oxide represented by the general formula

$$(Ba_{1-h-i-m}Ca_hSr_iGd_m)_k(Ti_{1-y-j-n}Zr_yHf_jMg_n)O_3,$$

in which $0.995 \leq k \leq 1.015$, $0 \leq h \leq 0.03$, $0 \leq i \leq 0.03$, $0.015 \leq m \leq 0.035$, $0 \leq y < 0.05$, $0 \leq j < 0.05$, $0 \leq (y+j) < 0.05$, and $0.015 \leq n \leq 0.035$ ~~hold~~, the Ba ~~is~~ being partly replaced with Gd, and the Ti ~~is~~ being partly replaced with Mg; and

an additive component containing Ma, Mb and Mc in which ~~(~~Ma is at least one of Ba, Sr, and Ca~~)~~, ~~Mb (~~Mb is at least one of Mn and Ni~~)~~, and ~~Mc (~~Mc is Si or ~~includes~~ both Si and Ti), and in which Ma is contained in ~~an~~ a positive amount ~~of~~ which is less than 1.5 moles ~~(however, 0 moles are not included)~~ with respect to 100 moles of the primary component, Mb is contained in ~~an~~ a positive amount ~~of~~ which is less than 1.0 mole ~~(however, 0 moles are not included)~~ with respect to 100 moles of the primary component, and Mc is contained in ~~an~~ a positive amount in the range of from 0.5 to 2.0 moles with respect to 100 moles of the primary component.

2. (Currently amended) The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 1, further comprising, with respect to 100 moles of the primary component, 0.5 moles or less of $R_2O_3$, in which ~~(~~R is at least one ~~of a~~ lanthanoid element ~~except~~ other than Gd, Y, and Sc~~)~~ as a subcomponent.

3. (Currently amended) The dielectric ceramic according to Claim ~~1 or~~ 2, further comprising, with respect to 100 moles of the primary component, a positive amount which is 1 mole of less of $Al_2O_3$.

4. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a dielectric ceramic comprising:

~~a first step of obtaining~~ providing a reaction product ~~composed of~~ comprising a barium titanate base composite oxide represented by the general formula $(Ba_{1-h-i-m}Ca_hSr_iGd_m)_k(Ti_{1-y-j-n}Zr_yHf_jMg_n)O_3$, in which $0.995 \leq k \leq 1.015$, $0 \leq h \leq 0.03$, $0 \leq i \leq 0.03$, $0.015 \leq m \leq 0.035$, $0 \leq y < 0.05$, $0 \leq j < 0.05$, $0 \leq (y+j) < 0.05$, and $0.015 \leq n \leq 0.035$ ~~hold~~, the Ba ~~is~~ being partly replaced with Gd, and the Ti ~~is~~ being partly replaced with Mg;

~~a second step of preparing~~ providing an additive containing Ma ~~(Ma~~ which is at least one of Ba, Sr, and Ca~~)~~, ~~Mb (~~Mb which is at least one of Mn and Ni~~)~~, and ~~Mc (~~Mc which is Si or ~~includes~~ both Si and Ti~~)~~;

~~a third step of~~ mixing the reaction product, ~~obtained in the first step and~~ Ma, Mb, and Mc ~~prepared in the second step~~ so that a positive amount which is less than 1.5 moles of Ma ~~(however, 0 moles are not included)~~ is contained with respect to 100 moles of the reaction product, a positive amount which is less than 1.0 mole of Mb ~~(however, 0 moles are not included)~~ is contained with respect to 100 moles of the reaction product, and 0.5 to 2.0 moles of Mc is contained with respect to 100 moles of the reaction product; and

~~a fourth step of~~ firing the resulting mixture ~~obtained in the third step~~.

5. (Currently amended) The method for manufacturing a dielectric ceramic, according to Claim 4, wherein, ~~in the third step~~prior to firing, a positive amount which is 0.5 moles or less of $R_2O_3$ ~~(~~ in which R is at least one ~~of a~~ lanthanoid element ~~except~~ other than Gd, Y, and Sc~~)~~ is ~~further~~ mixed as a subcomponent with respect to 100 moles of the reaction product.

6. (Currently amended) The method for manufacturing a dielectric ceramic, according to Claim ~~4 or~~ 5, wherein, ~~in the third step~~prior to firing, a positive amount which is 1 mole or less of $Al_2O_3$ is further mixed with respect to 100 moles of the reaction product.

7. (Currently amended) A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising: a laminate having dielectric ceramic layers which are laminated to each other and interior electrodes ~~which are~~ provided along ~~specific~~ interfaces between ~~the~~ dielectric ceramic layers ~~and which are~~ overlapped with each other in the lamination direction; and exterior electrodes ~~formed~~ on exterior surfaces of the laminate so as to be electrically connected to specific ones of the interior electrodes, wherein the dielectric ceramic layers each comprise the dielectric ceramic according to ~~one of Claims 1 to~~ Claim 3, and the interior electrodes each ~~contain~~ comprise a base metal ~~as a primary component~~.

8 (New). A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising: a laminate having dielectric ceramic layers which are laminated to each other and interior electrodes provided along interfaces between dielectric ceramic layers overlapped with each other in the lamination direction; and exterior electrodes on exterior surfaces of the laminate so as to be electrically connected to specific ones of the interior electrodes, wherein the dielectric ceramic layers each comprise the dielectric ceramic according to Claim 2, and the interior electrodes each comprise a base metal.

9 (New). A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising: a laminate having dielectric ceramic layers which are laminated to each other and interior electrodes provided along interfaces between dielectric ceramic layers overlapped with each other in the lamination direction; and exterior electrodes on exterior surfaces of the laminate so as to be electrically connected to specific ones of the interior electrodes, wherein the dielectric ceramic layers each comprise the dielectric ceramic according to Claim 1, and the interior electrodes each comprise a base metal.

10 (New). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 3, wherein the primary component contains less than 0.02 w% of alkali metal oxide and the dielectric ceramic has an average crystal grain size of 2.5 μm or less.

11 (New). A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising: a laminate having dielectric ceramic layers which are laminated to each other and interior electrodes provided along interfaces between dielectric ceramic layers overlapped with each other

in the lamination direction; and exterior electrodes on exterior surfaces of the laminate so as to be electrically connected to specific ones of the interior electrodes, wherein the dielectric ceramic layers each comprise the dielectric ceramic according to Claim 10, and the interior electrodes each comprise a base metal.

12 (New). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 10, wherein the dielectric ceramic has an average crystal grain size of 1.5 μm or less.

13 (New). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 12, wherein the dielectric ceramic has an average crystal grain size of 1 μm or less.

14 (New). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 1, further comprising, with respect to 100 moles of the primary component, 1 mole of less of $Al_2O_3$.

15 (New). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 14, wherein the primary component contains less than 0.02 w% of alkali metal oxide and the dielectric ceramic has an average crystal grain size of 2.5 μm or less.

16 (New). A multilayer ceramic capacitor comprising: a laminate having dielectric ceramic layers which are laminated to each other and interior electrodes

provided along interfaces between dielectric ceramic layers overlapped with each other in the lamination direction; and exterior electrodes on exterior surfaces of the laminate so as to be electrically connected to specific ones of the interior electrodes, wherein the dielectric ceramic layers each comprise the dielectric ceramic according to Claim 15, and the interior electrodes each comprise a base metal.

17 (New). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 15, wherein the dielectric ceramic has an average crystal grain size of 1.5 μm or less.

18 (New). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 17, wherein the dielectric ceramic has an average crystal grain size of 1 μm or less.

19 (New). The dielectric ceramic according to Claim 1, wherein $0.997 \leq k \leq 1.01$, $0 \leq h \leq 0.01$, $0 \leq i \leq 0.02$, $0.02 \leq y < 0.03$, $0 \leq j < 0.04$, $0.02 \leq (y+j) < 0.04$; Ma is 0.1-0.8 moles with respect to 100 moles of the primary component; Mb is 0.2-0.9 mole with respect to 100 moles of the primary component; Mc is 0.8 to 1.5 moles with respect to 100 moles of the primary component; and the dielectric ceramic has an average crystal grain size of 2.5 μm or less.

20 (New). The method for manufacturing a dielectric ceramic, according to Claim 4, wherein, prior to firing, a positive amount which is 1 mole or less of $Al_2O_3$ is further mixed with respect to 100 moles of the reaction product.